

**REVISED EXPRESS TERMS
FOR
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
2007 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE (CMC)
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 4**

Legend for Express Terms:

1. **California amendment (CA) brought forward without modification:** *All language will appear in italics.*
 2. **California amendment (CA) brought forward with modification:** *All language will appear in italics, modified language is shown underlined.*
 3. **New CBC language with new California amendment (CA):** CBC language shown in normal Arial 9 pt. California amendments to CBC text is shown underlined and in italics.
 4. **New California amendment (CA):** *California language will appear underlined and in italics.*
 5. **Repealed text:** Shown as ~~Strikeout~~.
 6. **Amended, adopted or repealed language after public hearing:** Amended, adopted, or repealed language will appear in double underline and ~~double-strikeout~~.
 7. **Notation:** Authority and reference citations are provided at the end of each chapter.
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Section 601.2

Before Comment:

601.2 Sizing Requirements. *Duct systems used with blower-type equipment that are portions of a heating, cooling, absorption, evaporative cooling, or outdoor air ventilation system shall be sized in accordance with Chapter 17, or by other approved methods.*

Exception: For applications listed in Section 108.2 regulated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, duct sizing calculations are not required for systems which do not require outside air.

After Comment:

601.2 Sizing Requirements. *Duct systems used with blower-type equipment that are portions of a heating, cooling, absorption, evaporative cooling, or outdoor air ventilation system shall be sized in accordance with Chapter 17, or by other approved methods.*

Exception: For applications listed in Section 108.2 regulated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, duct **[HCD 1]** Duct sizing calculations are not required for existing duct systems which do not require outside air.

Rationale:

HCD received comments regarding the importance of duct sizing, and for the most part agrees with the rationale of those comments. HCD believes and has always believed that a properly sized duct system will provide more comfort, better efficiency and increased longevity over the life cycle of space conditioning systems used in all residential construction. However, HCD has also received past comments about inappropriate and excessive enforcement and use of this section.

HCD is concerned about the burden that additional required duct sizing may place on property owners, builders, and mechanical contractors if not enforced from a common sense approach at the local level. HCD believes that contractors are currently responsible for installing mechanical equipment in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions; otherwise, no additional duct sizing should be required.

HCD's authority extends statewide and covers all newly constructed housing within the State of California. It is not limited to production housing or individually designed and built housing, therefore a standard practice for one may not apply to the other. For individually designed housing, it may not be possible for a duct sizing calculation to be accurately completed until the contractor arrives at the construction site and is able to determine the exact routing of the duct system. If not approached with common sense, this unknown could result in the need to re-do a calculation previously prepared as a requirement for permit issuance and could result in added expense and delay.

In addition, HCD believes that mandatory additional sizing for existing duct systems during repair or replacement of a furnace, condensing unit or evaporative coil is an unwarranted burden and violation of the State Housing Law relating to maintaining an existing system which is not substandard and was installed in compliance with requirements in effect then. Again, if required to meet manufacturer's requirements, a contractor will do this work anyway. At this time HCD has evaluated all information received to date and is proposing to modify the initial proposal to exempt only existing duct systems from this section. HCD has evaluated past complaints regarding this topic and determined that due to the geographical nature of these complaints it does not seem to be a statewide issue at this time.

NOTE:

Authority cited: Health and Safety Code Sections 17040, 17921, 17922, 18300, 18865 and 19990; and Government Code Sections 12955.1 and 12955.1.1.

Reference: Health and Safety Code Sections 17000 through 17060, 17910 through 17990, 18620, 18630, 18640, 18670, 18690, 18691, 18873 through 18873.5, and 19960 through 19997; and Government Code Sections 12955.1 and 12955.1.1.